



Sully Spotlight

Heroes Live Forever
Badge 1417 Badge 2806

Farewell Frank



By: MPO W. M. Brock

November 2008

Inside This Issue:

Farewell Frank	1
Time to Fall Back	4
Recent Trends	4
Santa's Ride	5
Child Seat Inspections	6
CAC Corner	6
Traffic Trivia	6
False Alarms	8
Support the FCPD Can-teen	9
Home Security Surveys	10
SALT Committee	10



A Fairfax County,
Va., publication

Events of Interest

Nov. 27- Thanksgiving
Dec. 8- Santa's Ride
toy pick up.
Dec. 16- CAC Meeting
Dec. 25-26- Christmas
Holiday- County Offices
Closed
Jan. 1- New Year's Day
- County Offices Closed

I am sure that by now most of you have heard of the loss within the police department's family. Second Lieutenant Frank Stecco died as the result of drowning during a water rescue exercise conducted in Pohick Bay on October 21, 2008.

After his disappearance at 2:47 p.m. on the 21st of October, an extensive air, land and water search was initiated. Several jurisdictions assisted in the various phases of the search. It was not until 12:25 p.m. on October 25th that search efforts were halted. This was the result of divers discovering Frank's body approximately 100 feet from where he had last been seen.

It is still hard to comprehend. When something like this happens we go through the various stages of grief. These stages include denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. These are perfectly normal reactions and some may last longer than others. At times during this process we may have many conflicting feelings and this can cause undue stress. The police department is a family, so I can say that we have all been affected in one way or another by this sudden loss .

In the police department, we never know what to expect. One minute things are calm and relaxed and the next minute all has gone awry. We do a lot of training. Some of it is very realistic. It has always been said that you will, "fight like you train." There are inherent risks that we as police officers take. One is just coming to work and putting our uniform on.

Although there are risks, I have never really dwelled on them. I think you would go crazy if you did. I doubt if Frank dwelled on them either. He did what was needed to get the job done. He was also a fairly laid back and easy-going person.

Frank had recently been transferred to the Youth Services Division. That made him one of my bosses. In crime prevention we answer to two different captains. One is the commander of the district station in which I am assigned. The other is the captain in charge of Youth Services. Frank was our direct supervisor in Youth Services.

Unfortunately, due to the short time that Frank had been assigned to Youth Services, I did not get to know him better. We had spoken several times in passing over the years, but were not very close. He had spent a majority of his career at the Mount Vernon Station, while mine was spent at the McLean District Station.

Going through the academy, I remember the instructors speaking about Karen Jean Bassford. She was killed on July 27, 1977, after striking a utility pole on her way to a burglary call. She was the only Fairfax County Police Officer up to that time, who had died in the line of duty. It was hoped she would also be the last.

Unfortunately it did not work out that way. Since losing Karen, we have lost five additional members of our police family. They are Special Officer Hendrik "Sandy" Gideonse, Captain Tommy Bernal, Master Police Officer Mike Garbarino, Detective Vicky Armel and now 2LT Frank Stecco. May they all rest in peace and know that they have not been forgotten for the individuals that they were, the sacrifices that they made, their many achievements and dedication to the Fairfax County Police Department.



Photo by: Donna Spiewak



Photo by: Donna Spiewak



Photo by: Donna Spiewak



Photo by: Donna Spiewak



Photo by: Donna Spiewak

If you wish to make a donation



There have been many requests for the following information:

Donations in Memory of Second Lieutenant Frank Stecco

The Fairfax County Police Department announces that a memorial fund has been established at the Fairfax County Federal Credit Union in memory of 2Lt. Frank Stecco, who passed away during a training exercise at Pohick Bay Regional Park. Anyone wishing to donate may do so at any branch of the Fairfax County Federal Credit Union (FCU) or send to:

Fairfax County Federal Credit Union

Frank J. Stecco Memorial Fund

P.O. Box 1300

Fairfax, VA 22038-1300

Messages of condolence may be sent to FCPD-2252@FairfaxCounty.gov or mailed to: Mount Vernon District Police Station, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306

It's Time to Fall Back

By MPO W. M. Brock

Another summer is behind us and we are now approaching winter and the colder months. It is that time of year when you leave for work in the morning darkness, only to return home in the evening darkness.

On Sunday, November 2 at 2:00 a.m., we all turned our clocks back an hour. On the bright side, that meant we got an extra hour of sleep. On the negative side, it meant it will be getting dark earlier and children have to go to the bus stop in darkness.

The time change has nothing to do with the length of the day, although it may seem like it does. The fact is we have fewer hours of daylight due to the tilt of the Earth on its axis. As we approach the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun, receiving less light during shorter days and longer nights, and the light is less direct. The result is a cold winter of long dark nights and short days. This year the winter solstice takes place on December 21, which also marks the first day of winter. If you have a light set on a timer, do not forget to adjust it accordingly.

If you did not replace the batteries in all of your home smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, you should do so at this time. They should also be replaced when Daylight Savings Time starts again in the spring. An evacuation or escape plan should also be reviewed at the same time with members of your family. Safety starts at home!



RECENT CRIME TRENDS

-
- ☞ GPS thefts continue to rise. If you leave a GPS unit on your dash or mounted to your windshield in an unattended vehicle, you are asking for trouble. Please remove all GPS units and other items of value from your vehicle. Keep your vehicle locked at all times.
 - ☞ Theft of credit cards from women's purses at various stores. Keep your purse and wallet in a location that does not allow easy access. Also, do not be distracted by others. This could be a ruse used to draw your attention away from your valuables.

CRIME PREVENTION TID BITS

-
- ☞ Never leave your overhead garage door open at night or when you are not around. There are some criminals that specifically target houses with unattended open garage doors.
 - ☞ When at work, never leave your wallet or purse unattended or lying around. If you get up from your desk, take your purse or wallet with you. You could also lock it in a filing cabinet, desk drawer or safe. There are criminals known as "Officer Creepers" that try to blend in with your co-workers to gain access to offices. Once inside they target cash and credit cards. .



SANTA'S RIDE

For Children



**CONDUCTED BY THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE
DEPARTMENT'S MOTOR SQUAD WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE
VIENNA POLICE DEPARTMENT, FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, FAIRFAX
CITY POLICE AND VIRGINIA STATE POLICE.**

**WE NEED NEW TOYS, GAMES, BOOKS, STUFFED ANIMALS
AND GIFTS. THESE ITEMS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO CHILDREN AT FAIRFAX
HOSPITAL AND TO CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY WHO MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE
HAVE A CHEERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!**

**THE SULLY DISTRICT POLICE STATION IS NOW COLLECTING
TOYS FOR SANTA'S RIDE! PLEASE DROP OFF NEW, UN-
WRAPPED TOYS AND GAMES FOR THIS GREAT CAUSE!**

**THESE ITEMS WILL BE PICKED UP ON DECEMBER 8, 2008
TO ENSURE SANTA GETS ALL THE TOYS, PLEASE HAVE YOUR
DONATIONS TO THE STATION NO LATER THAN SUNDAY
DECEMBER 7TH. LET'S TRY TO MAKE THIS YEAR BETTER
THAN LAST! THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR DONATION
AND GENEROSITY !**

Sully District Station Child Seat Inspections

Is your child seat installed properly? Is it the correct seat for your child's age and weight? Did you know that your Sully District Station offers free child seat inspections by certified technicians?

☞ **Next available dates:** November 27, 2008 **Time:** 5:00 PM-8:30 PM

December 4, 2008 5:00 PM-8:30 PM

December 11, 2008 5:00 PM-8:30 PM

December 18, 2008 5:00 PM-8:30 PM



No appointment is necessary. Our technicians request that you make an effort to install your child safety seats yourself, so that they may properly inspect and make adjustments, as necessary. For additional child seat inspection times, you may call the Fairfax County Operations Support Bureau at 703-280-0559.

CAC Corner



The Sully District Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting was held on Tuesday, October 21, 2008. PFC Matthew Bell was officially recognized as officer of the quarter. MPO Dave Patton spoke about the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy. He gave insight to the group on what a police officer recruit experiences during their six months of training at the academy. Tracey Ryan, Director of the Citizens Police Academy and a VIPS (Volunteer In Police Services), spoke about the Citizens Police Academy. John Werderman conducted a brief presentation on the Fairfax County Police Department Canteen.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday November 18, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The meeting place will be the Sully District Police Station. Please come and join us!



Traffic Trivia

By MPO W. M. Brock



Recently we have been experiencing drivers discharging passengers from their vehicles while stopped on the roadway. This is occurring near some of the area schools. This creates a hazard for the passengers being discharged, as well as a distraction and traffic delays for motorists.

Drivers, you should know that you can receive a traffic ticket (Virginia Uniformed Summons) for attempting such an act. There are two code sections that cover this specifically:

§ 46.2-888. *Stopping on highways; general rule.*

No person shall stop a vehicle in such manner as to impede or render dangerous the use of the highway by others, except in the case of an emergency, an accident, or a mechanical breakdown. In the event of such an emergency, accident, or breakdown, the emergency flashing lights of such vehicle shall be turned on if the vehicle is equipped with such lights and such lights are in working order. If the driver is capable of safely doing so and the vehicle is movable, the driver may move the vehicle from the roadway to prevent obstructing

the regular flow of traffic; provided, however, that the movement of the vehicle to prevent the obstruction of traffic shall not relieve the law-enforcement officer of his duty pursuant to § 46.2-373. A report of the vehicle's location shall be made to the nearest law-enforcement officer as soon as practicable, and the vehicle shall be moved from the roadway to the shoulder as soon as possible and removed from the shoulder without unnecessary delay. If the vehicle is not promptly removed, such removal may be ordered by a law-enforcement officer at the expense of the owner if the disabled vehicle creates a traffic hazard.

(Code 1950, § 46-256; 1952, c. 671; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-248; 1962, c. 175; 1972, c. 63; 1974, c. 230; 1977, cc. 284, 326; 1985, c. 93; 1989, c. 727; 1997, c. 431; 2008, c. 737.)

Another code section that could apply:

§ 46.2-893. Stopping on highways to discharge cargo or passengers; school buses.

No truck or bus, except a school bus, shall be stopped wholly or partially on the traveled portion of any highway outside of cities and towns for the purpose of taking on or discharging cargo or passengers unless the operator cannot leave the traveled portion of the highway with safety. A school bus may be stopped on the traveled portion of the highway when taking on or discharging school children, but these stops shall be made only at points where the bus can be clearly seen for a safe distance from both directions.

(Code 1950, § 46-257; 1950, p. 941; 1956, c. 505; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-250; 1960, c. 256; 1989, c. 727.)

So, do everyone a favor. If you are discharging passengers, do not stop in the roadway. Either pull onto the shoulder of the road in a designated area or into a parking lot to let your passengers exit safely.

If not, it just may be an expensive lesson for you. A conviction of these violations carries a \$92.00 fine (includes court costs) and four demerit points on your license.





WIND!

WIND = FALSE ALARM ACTIVATIONS

WIND + POWER OUTAGES = FALSE ALARM ACTIVATIONS

... FACT OR FICTION?

QUESTION: Should wind cause your alarm system to activate?

ANSWER: Wind should not cause properly installed and maintained alarm systems to activate.

- ☞ When winds exceed 30 - 40 mph, Fairfax County experiences an increase in false alarm activations.
- ☞ False alarms caused by wind are preventable.
- ☞ To prevent wind-related false alarms, eliminate movement within door and window frames which allows separation of contacts and creates a false alarm.
- ☞ Ensure doors and windows fit snugly in their frames and contacts are firmly in place.
- ☞ Consider replacing loose alarm contacts with "wide" door or window contacts to fill voids which allow excessive movement of your doors and windows.

QUESTION: Should a power outage or power surge cause your system to activate?

ANSWER: Power outages and/or surges should not cause properly installed and maintained alarm systems to activate.

To prevent power surges or power outages from causing false alarms, contact your alarm company to verify that your alarm system has been properly installed in compliance with the County Code of Fairfax, Security Alarm Systems. This includes properly installed surge suppressors and adequate backup battery:

- ☞ Ensure surge suppressors are installed on **both** the alarm system and on the phone line sending the alarm signal to your central monitoring station.
- ☞ Ensure your alarm system batteries are holding a minimum charge of 4 hours—if not, replace them, (County Code of Fairfax 8.1 Section 8.1.-3-5).
- ☞ Properly maintained batteries and surge suppressors help reduce false alarms.

Remember, wind-related alarm activations are false alarms.

Fairfax County Police Department, False Alarm Reduction Unit, 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone: (703) 246-5424 / Fax: (703) 246-5430 / e-mail: alarms@fairfaxcounty.gov

This document is available in an alternative format upon request. Please call the Fairfax County Police Department at (703)-246-7562 or TTY (703)_204-2264. Allow seven working days for preparation of the material.



A Fairfax County, VA, Publication





Support the Fairfax County Police Department CANTEEN



Save your caps and flaps!

The Citizens Police Academy alumni are collecting Coke bottle caps and 12-pack flaps for the FCPD Canteen. The Canteen will provide needed refreshments to officers during critical incidents. Reward points from caps and flaps will be redeemed for free refreshments from Coke. You can drop off any caps and flaps that are collected at the Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151.

Thanks for your support!

*Sponsored by the Fairfax County Citizens Police Academy
Alumni Association*



Sully District Police Station
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard
Chantilly, VA 20151

Main Phone 703-814-7000
Fax 703-814-7013

File a Report on Line
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crs

Virginia Amber Alert
<http://www.vaambersalert.com>

**Aggressive Driving—
Report Online at**
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/traf_sfty_report.htm



PHONE NUMBERS

**Fairfax County Crime
Solvers :**
1-866-411-TIPS

**Fairfax County Police
Non-Emergency:**
703-691-2131

**Sully District Crime
Prevention Office:**
703-814-7018
Or
703-814-7048

**Child Car Seat
Installation:**
Sully District Station
703-814-7000 x 5140

SAFE (Self Defense Class)
703-246-7806

**Citizen Reporting System
(to file reports only)**
703-691-2131

Home Security Surveys

This is just a reminder: The Fairfax County Police Department provides Home Security Inspections, free of charge. Here is a brief description of this service:

A qualified, trained Fairfax County Police officer or auxiliary officer will inspect the locks, doors and windows of your home with you. Exterior lighting, landscaping and other factors affecting the protection of your home from burglary also will be reviewed. The officer will make recommendations for improving your home security. These recommendations will be provided in writing to allow you to review and implement them at your own pace.

Contact either crime prevention officer at the Sully District Station to arrange your free inspection.



You are invited to join the Fairfax County Police Department's new Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) organization. The Sully District Station has formed a small group of interested and motivated individuals as a core for the district's SALT Council. SALT Councils act as an advisory group from their specific geographical region. All of the SALT Councils then come together to form the Triad for the entire county.

The goal of Triad is to reduce the fear of crime and victimization among seniors, increase awareness of scams and frauds targeting seniors, strengthen communication between the law enforcement and senior communities, and educate seniors on local and state resources that are available in their community.

To make this program work, we still need members. Please step up and let your voice be heard. Participants will play an important role in collaborating with the public safety community. Volunteer today! We really need your support to keep this program going. Our next meeting will be held at the Sully District Police Station on December 10, 2008

For more information and to learn how to get involved call MPO W. M. Brock at 703-814-7048 or PFC P. B. Katinsky at 703-814-7018. You can also e-mail us at wbroc1@fairfaxcounty.gov or pkatin@fairfaxcounty.gov

Newsletter compiled by MPO W. M. Brock